

December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Lessons and Carols

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Leading people to become
faithful followers of Jesus Christ
together in God's world

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child
and shall bear a son
and shall name him Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14*

Transitional Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Rev. Allan Poole
Rev. Donna Marsh
Dr. Quinn Fox
Rev. Lisa Larsen

Parish Associates

Dr. Nancy Fox
Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

Music

Dr. Michael Denham (Director)
Todd Fickley (Organist)
Joanna Zorack-Greene
(Contemporary Music Leader)

Ministry Directors

Jonathan Edwards (Serve)
Kristin Franke (Youth & Families)
Jill Meek (Children)
Leslie Saum (Connections)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Gifts for Christmas Today in Stone Hall

All are welcome for fellowship, treats, and generosity to support God's work throughout the world. Give in person or [click here](#) to select missionaries and organizations to receive your donations. You can give online now through December 31.

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree

Help deliver a big bag of Christmas gifts to a family with children of incarcerated parents. You may pick up one bag for a family in Stone Hall near the Christmas tree today and deliver them this week.

Youth Christmas Party Tonight at 6:30 pm

All youth are invited to a Christmas party! Please bring a white elephant gift (under \$10, no gift cards please). Wear your best Christmas sweater!

Christmas Flowers

Would you like to honor or remember a loved one by supporting NPC's Christmas flower displays? You will find Flower Ministry envelopes on the tables outside the sanctuary. You may make a donation of any size to NPC by check, noting Christmas Flowers on the memo line. A list of dedications will appear in the bulletin shortly after Christmas.

Lessons & Carols from King's College

This morning we are structuring our worship around a much abbreviated historic Service of Lessons and Carols, which originated in Cambridge, England in 1918. Through a combination of Scriptural "lessons" and carols we are invited to prepare for the coming of Jesus by giving consideration to the broader sweep of the Biblical story as the background to his incarnation. If you would like to learn more about the history of the service, please [click here](#).

Advent Devotional:

View Online or Download

You're invited to an Advent pilgrimage to the manger! We are excited to offer you an Advent devotional guide entitled *The Promised One*. Please [click here](#) or visit our home page to view online or download the devotional. Together, we'll engage in a visual and spiritual feast that includes daily readings from Scripture, a brief meditation, and a couple of short questions for reflection. Let's pray that when that Birthday arrives, we will find ourselves expectant, eager, and joyful at his coming.

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm: Family Nativity Service

Our children, youth and adults will bring to life the nativity story with song and scripture. This is a family-friendly service that your kids will love!

8:00 & 10:00 pm

Traditional Candlelight Services

The message, prayers and beautiful music of these traditional Christmas Eve services will inspire you and fill you with hope.

Sundays, December 25 & January 1

We will have a single worship service at 11:00 am both Sundays. Childcare will be provided for ages up to 4 years. Our regular worship schedule and Sunday School for all ages will resume on January 8.

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

Welcome! Masks are optional at our services, with the exception of the balcony and the lectern-side transept (at the front on your right), where masks are required. Our ushers are happy to guide you to your preferred seating area.

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, keyboard

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Donna Marsh

▲ OPENING SONG Noel Chris Tomlin

Love incarnate love divine. Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee. The Savior of humanity
Unto us a Child is born. He shall reign forevermore.

Chorus: *Noel! Noel! Come and see what God has done.*

Noel! Noel! The story of amazing love.

The light of the world given for us. Noel!

Son of God and Son of man. There before the world began.

Born to suffer, born to save. Born to raise us from the grave.

Christ the everlasting Lord. He shall reign forevermore. **Chorus**

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE The Im and Afnan Family

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Noel! Noel! Come and see what God has done.

Noel! Noel! The story of amazing love.

The light of the world given for us. Noel!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

We praise you, O Lord, as we remember the coming of your Son our Savior.

We marvel that you have revealed yourself in his Incarnation.

Your thoughts are beyond our most daring imaginations,
yet you have spoken simply and surprisingly for yourself
through the humble birth of a child in Bethlehem.

You have bent low to rescue us from dark and empty ways we have wandered.

Forgive us and hold us fast, gracious God,
as we behold your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *In dulci jubilo*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now we need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls us one and calls us all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Lisa Larsen

We believe in one God, whose almighty word brought forth the universe,
who speaks to us by his Spirit through what he has created
and through what has been written for us in Holy Scripture.

We believe that at the right moment in time,
God's Word became flesh in the life of Jesus of Nazareth,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.

We believe that this good news of great joy which heralded Jesus' birth
also points us to the cross on which Jesus died, and to his empty tomb.

There the angel's message "He is risen!"
heralded the glorious good news of Christ's resurrection.

We believe that this same Jesus is alive to meet us every day,
and to offer us new and abundant life.

We rejoice in the knowledge that he will one day return to rule in righteousness,
to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

An Advent Affirmation

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Jill Meek, Director of Children's Ministry

Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Larsen

Lessons & Carols

Please see page 7.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Quinn Fox

Offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes and gifts as you exit.

OFFERING SONG

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Keith Getty

Sing we the song of Emmanuel. This the Christ who was long foretold
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem. Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.

Chorus 1: *God Most High in a manger laid. Lift your voices and now proclaim:*

Great and glorious Love has come to us. Join now with the hosts of heaven.

Come we to welcome Emmanuel King who came with no crown or throne.

Helpless he lay the Invincible. Maker of Mary, now Mary's son.

Chorus 2: *O what wisdom to save us all. Shepherds sages before him fall.*

Grace and majesty what humility. Come on bended knee adore him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel: joy and peace for the weary heart.

Lift up your heads for your King has come.

Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark.

Chorus 3: *Glory shining for all to see. Hope alive let the gospel ring.*

God has made a way, he will have the praise. Tell the world his name is Jesus. (2x)
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Gloria!

▲ DOXOLOGY

Regent Square

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Dr. Fox

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

▲ CLOSING SONG

Light of the Stable

Steve and Elizabeth Rhymer

Hail, hail to the newborn King, let our voices sing him our praises.

Hail, hail to the guiding Light that brought us tonight to our Savior.

Chorus: Halle—Hallelujah (4x)

Come now, let it shine so bright to the knowing Light of the stable.

Kneel close to the Child so dear cast aside your fear and be thankful. **Chorus**

Hail, hail to the newborn King, let our voices sing him our praises.

Hail, hail to the guiding Light that brought us tonight to our Savior. **Chorus**

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Poole

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

Advent and Christmas Books

Visit the Library this Sunday (one level down from the sanctuary) and "check out" our great selection of Advent and Christmas books for all ages.

Weather Announcements

If weather is looking dicey, please be sure to check the home page of our website for a banner announcement of any cancellations or closures. We also have a link to [Weather Announcements](#) at the bottom of our home page.

2022 NPC Christmas Ornaments Available by Mail

If you can't make it to church in person and would still like a 2022 NPC Christmas ornament, please [click here](#) or contact Leslie Saum at lsaum@nationalpres.org and we will be happy to mail one to you, as long as supplies last.

Children and congregation together:

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
 The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Congregation as children return to pews:

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
 and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Larsen

Lessons & Carols

LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-5

Rev. Allan Poole

▲ CAROL

Prepare the Way

Bereden väg för Herran

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
 Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
 Greet him who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story:
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.
 Fling wide your gates, O Zion, your Savior's rule embrace,
 And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
 All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing:
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-3a

Rev. Marsh

CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Es ist ein' Ros'

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
 Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
 It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
 when half-spent was the night.
 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
 With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
 To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,
 when half-spent was the night.

LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Dr. Fox

SOLO

Mary, Did You Know?

Lowry & Greene

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
 Did you know that your baby boy had come to make us new?
 This child that you delivered would soon deliver you.
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy would give sight to a blind man?
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with his hand?
 Did you know that your baby boy had walked where angels trod,
 And when you kissed your little baby, you'd kissed the face of God?
 Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know?

Dr. Michael Denham (8:45), Kahaari Kenyatta (11:00)
 Christine Lightner, cello, Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

Rev. Larsen

▲ CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Glo—ria in excelsis Deo! Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

Rev. Poole

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

▲ CAROL

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

Now let us all with one accord

Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,

That hath made heav'n and earth of nought

And with his blood our life hath bought.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Fox

There are offering plates at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes and gifts as you exit.

OFFERTORY While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

Dan Forrest

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,

The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled minds,

"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind."

"To you, in Bethlehem, this day is born of David's line,

A Savior who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:"

"The heav'nly babe there you shall find, to human view displayed,

All simply wrapped in swaddling clothes, and in a manger laid."

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;

To those on whom his favor rests, goodwill shall never cease."

with Tess Ottinger, soprano and String Quartet

▲ ADVENT DOXOLOGY

Regent Square

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:

One in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

▲ HYMN 40

Joy to the World!

Antioch

▲ BENEDICTION

Rev. Poole

CHORAL RESPONSE

All Is Well

Michael W. Smith

All is well, all is well. Angels and men rejoice!

For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light. *Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!*

All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth.

Christ is come, go and tell that he is in the manger. *Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!*

All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing.

Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior. *Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!*

with Sam Scarrow, tenor

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Larsen

▲ POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Keith Chapman

Todd Fickley, Organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

Strings:

Heather Green, violin; Amelia Giles, violin; Ann Steck, viola; Christine Lightner, cello

Brass:

Woodrow English, trumpet; Dennis Edelbrock, trumpet;

Rick (Tommy) Lee, French horn; Scott Shelsta, trombone; Jess Lightner, tuba

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Sunday School - January Term

Our Adult Sunday School will offer some unique opportunities to grow in your faith. For a preview, please [click here](#) or visit our Adult Classes page online.

Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Saturdays, January 21 & 28, online

Becoming a church member here at National can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey. To inquire about membership or just learn more about Christian faith, please attend the two-day online Pathway of Christian Discipleship classes on January 21 & 28. Please [click here](#) for more information or contact Kemet Rakiatu to register by January 11th at KRakiatu@NationalPres.org or 202.537.7578.

NPC Job Opportunities

- Children's Ministry Summer Intern
- Youth Ministry Summer Intern
- AV Engineer (Part time, contract)
- AV Assistant (Part time, contract)

For more information or to apply, please [click here](#) or visit our [Jobs page](#) online.

National Presbyterian School Virtual Visits

Application deadline is January 13. Join us for a visit in early January. NPS gives special consideration to applications from NPC families for pre-K3 through sixth grade. For more information visit www.nps-dc.org or contact Admissions Director Katy Harvey, kharvey@nps-dc.org or 202.537.7508.

VISIT OUR WELCOME CENTER!

Bible Reading Guides for 2023

Why not make 2023 the year you read through the Bible? One way to do this is by using a Bible reading guide. You can pick up a printed version in our Welcome Center or [download your copy here](#) from our Resources page. If you'd like to just read the New Testament, please [click here](#).

Special Nativity Crèche in the Welcome Center

A number of years ago the church was bequeathed a large nativity crèche by Mary Elisa Norment and family. The crèche pieces were collected over many years by Mary Elisa's father. She donated the crèche to the church so that others could share in the joy that her family had in using it as part of their yearly Christmas celebrations.

SUNDAYS AT NATIONAL

Our worship services are in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch](#) page.

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School for all ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship

Adult Sunday School Classes

Please [click here](#) or visit our [Adults Classes page](#) online to read the full description and for the online link.

Class Title	Teacher(s)/Facilitator(s)	Location
<i>Hebrews—Looking to Jesus; Going On To Maturity</i>	R.V. Seep	Chapel, In-person and online available
<i>Talking about Race: Gospel Hope for Hard Conversations</i>	Peggy Lewis, Nancy Fox, Lewrene Glaser	Room #209
<i>Matthew: The Promised Messiah Has Come</i>	Donna Duss, Margaret Gardner and others	Garden Room C
<i>Parent Gathering</i>	Kristin Franke and others	Jones Hall in the Education Building

Youth Sunday School

Please [click here](#) or visit our [Youth page](#) online for more information about Sunday School and other youth events. Youth grades 6-12, please come to the Multipurpose Building for Sunday School. We'll meet there briefly then split to smaller groups by age.


Children's Sunday School

Please [click here](#) or visit our [Children's page](#) online to read about our Children's Ministry.

- The Nursery rooms are available for all infants to walkers, up to age 4, 8:30 am-noon, including during the Sunday School hour.
- Children ages 2-3 years have their Sunday school program in the Toddler Room in the main church building.
- Classes for age 4 through 5th grade are held in the Education Building (National Presbyterian School).

DECEMBER GIVING - FINISH THE YEAR STRONG!

Your financial generosity will help National to continue to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ through worship that comforts and inspires, classes and groups for all ages, pastoral care in times of difficulty, and service to those in our city and world. Help us meet the annual budget and achieve all that God wants from NPC by giving today. There are many ways to do so:

- Recurring and one-time gifts can be made by [clicking here](#), visiting our Giving webpage or by using this QR code:

- Stock donations: Ask your broker to identify you as the donor.
Deliver stock information to:
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney DTC
Clearing Number: 0015
Client Account #: 504-041937-387
Client Name: The National
Presbyterian Church, Inc.
NPC TIN: 53-0196611
- Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA for individuals 70 ½ or older: Required IRA minimum distributions made directly from your IRA to NPC are not subject to income taxes, which results in savings from a lower after-tax cost of the gift.
- Make a gift from your phone by texting the letters NPC to (833) 414-9444.

For help or questions about giving, please contact our Finance Office at 202.537.7495 or email our Director of Finance and Administration, Leah Skrine at lskrine@nationalpres.org.

Report of Faith Giving Through December 5, 2022

Year-to-Date Giving	\$2,234,000
Annual Budget	\$3,192,000
Shortfall	(\$838,000)

This Coming Week at a Glance

For information about all of these events, please see our [Events page](#) online.

December 1-31: [Mission Gifts for Christmas](#) available online

Today, December 18

- Mission Gifts for Christmas in Stone Hall
- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship with Lessons & Carols
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship with Lessons & Carols
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group Christmas party

Wednesday, December 21

- 6:30 pm: College Christmas Party

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

- 5:00 pm: Family Nativity Service
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm: Traditional Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day

- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship

Monday, December 26

- NPC offices closed for holiday

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

New to National? Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for being with us today! Please stop by the Welcome Center just outside the sanctuary. We would love to meet you and we have a gift for you! Here are some easy online ways to connect with us:

- [Click here](#) to sign our online guestbook.
- [Click here](#) or visit our Home page at nationalpres.org to sign up for our e-newsletter.
- Follow us on social media!
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

Children and Youth E-newsletters

If you have little ones or youth in your household and would like to receive our updates, please:

- [Click here](#) or visit our Children's page for kids up to 5th grade.
- [Click here](#) or visit our Youth page for kids in middle and high school.

Prayers

We grieve the death of:
Bob English.

We pray for:
Birzeit Social and Cultural Development Center as it supports senior citizens in Bethlehem.

How may we pray for you?
Please submit prayer requests to
Wray Muoio,
wmuoio@nationalpres.org
2202.537.7540

Your Giving and Commitments Make a Difference

Thank you! Because of your financial generosity, National continues to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ at this critical time.

Let's finish 2022 strong! You can support the general ministry of National:

- Go to nationalpres.org/giving
- Text "NPC" to 833.414.9444
- Scan the QR code below:



If you haven't yet made your 2023 commitment, please visit nationalpres.org/gratefulgiving2023 or scan the QR code below to make your commitment online.



Want to support the Capital Building Campaign? Please click [here](#).

For help or questions about giving, please contact our Finance Office at 202.537.7495 or email our Director of Finance and Administration, Leah Skrine at lskrine@nationalpres.org.

Today's Flowers

To the glory of God, whom he served, and in honor of his December 23 birthday, the flowers in the Sanctuary are given by the family of Dr. Edward L. R. Elson (1906-1993), Senior Pastor of NPC for 28 years and Chaplain of the Senate for 12 years.



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